



St. Paul United Methodist Church

The Goodnews Letter

July 2024

Ordination Anniversary

Reflections on the one year anniversary of a pastor's ordination

On June 4, 2024, I celebrated my one year anniversary of my ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. One of the Ordained pastors in the South Carolina Conference described to my ordination class the date of your ordination is one of the many milestone dates you will remember all the days of your life. It is up there with someone's wedding day and the day you hold your first child in your arms. Another ordained pastor shared with us that they value their ordination date above their wedding date.

A pastor's ordination day is truly a day of celebration. It is the day a pastor gives their entire life to the Lord Jesus Christ as a servant to Christ body- the Church.

After years of praying, discernment, going to school, writing papers, going to the district committee of ministry, being certified as a candidate for ministry, attending the change of status meetings, writing papers again (even after going to seminary), serving two years as a provisional deacon or elder, attending residency, and being approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session at annual conference, you arrive to your ordination day. There is no wonder why people cry on their ordination day after everything they have been through on their journey.

One of the arguments leveled against the United Methodist Church is the long and arduous process of ordination. However, now being able to look back, I am just now beginning to see how God has used the long journey toward ordination to form and make me into a servant for Christ's Church.

The journey itself is just as important as the day of ordination. In the moments leading up to my ordination at annual conference in 2023, I could not help but think back to every meaningful person and holy moment I had experienced on my journey.

Ordination is both a joyous celebration of publicly declaring your vocation to the world and also a day when you become yoked to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have always loved the words from the ordination liturgy:

“Remember you are called to serve rather than to be served
To proclaim of the Church and no other
And to look after the concerns of Christ above all”

In our ordination vows, we take a sacred oath to serve the Church literally as Jesus’ servants. One of the pastors before this year’s ordination service shared with one of the ordinands, “the stole you wear is not a badge of honor. It is literally a yoke that ties you to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

In other words, the stole of the deacon and elder is not a merit badge you wear like a Boy or Girl Scout, the stole is a symbol of a pastor’s sacred obligation to serve the Lord in everything they do in thought, word, and deed. There are days when the yoke feels very heavy. It feels heavy when walking into a hospital room of a dying church member, leading the procession from the sanctuary to the graveyard for a funeral, and listening to the concerns and fears of your congregation in pastoral visits. The stole is heavy but there are days when the stole is both heavy and light (Matthew 11:28-29) On those days, you see the glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven that comes near and you become a witness to God making all things new. The stole feels heavy and light when you officiate over the wedding of a dear friend, when you offer prayers for blessings and anointing over a new home with people with intellectual/special needs, when you celebrate a person’s 95th birthday and they share with you that the number one reason for all their success in life is because of a person named Jesus.

While on a trip with several ordained pastor’s this past year, one of the retired pastors shared with me years ago one of our bishops in South Carolina told them, “you can retire from the annual conference but retirement from ordination is death.” Ordination is a vow that shall take a lifetime to fulfill and in fulfilling the vows of ordination, we find life.

-Pastor Joseph D. Kovas

ST. PAUL UMC VOLUNTEERS

Acolytes

07/07 Vivianna Ignaffo

07/14 David Ignaffo

07/21 TBA

07/28 Lauren Akins

Communion Preparation

Kathy Moore

Lay Assistant

07/07 Eve Morrow

07/14 Randy Stowe

07/21 Mason Morrow

07/28 Charles Goodman, Sr.

Nursery Volunteers

07/07 Christy Boatright & Eirene Ferguson

07/14 Minnie Goodman & Amanda Kirkland

07/21 Kathy Moore & April Ramos


07/28 Toby James & Destiny Ramos

Offering Accountants

April Ramos, Jennifer Morrow & Jennifer Akins

Lay Servant Substitute: Jennifer Akins

If you are unable to serve on the Sunday you are scheduled for, please find a replacement and contact the church office.



St. Paul UMC is scheduled to load the ACTS food distribution truck on the 4th Thursday of the month.

ACTS Food Distribution
Friday, July 26, 2024
8:30 AM
New Ellenton Civic Center



Informational sessions on the denomination.

Mark your Calendar with the following dates:

1. Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center
2. Sunday, July 21, 2024 after worship in the Family Life Center

*All are invited to come and learn more
about the current state of the United Methodist Church.*

All questions are welcomed as well.



Salkehatchie Commissioning Service
Sunday, July 7, 2024

Join us this Sunday as we commission those who will participate
in the Salkehatchie Summer Service.

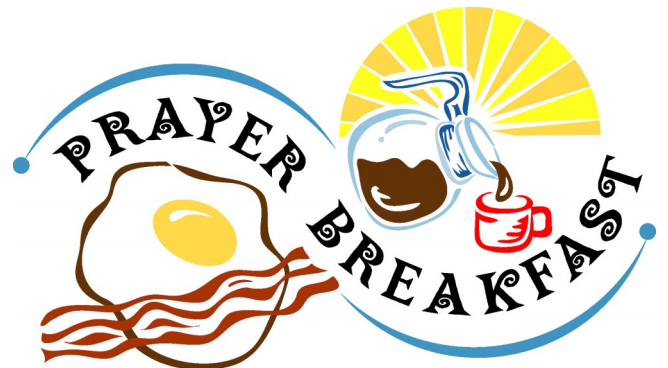
Salkehatchie Summer Service (Saturday, July 13-Saturday, July 20, 2024)

Salkehatchie Testimony Day in the Sanctuary
Sunday, July 28, 2024

Please join us on this Sunday as we hear testimonies from those who took part in the mission trip.
Hear what this trip meant to them, how it impacted them and how they felt while making a difference in
the lives of someone less fortunate.

Biscuits and Bible
Sunday, August 4

Come join us during the Sunday School hour
on Sunday, August 4
for a biscuit and devotion before worship.





ST. PAUL

United Methodist Church

600 Main Street South
New Ellenton, SC 29809

Phone: 803-652-2547

E-mail: office@umcne.org

Rev. Joseph D. Kovas
jdkovas@umcsc.org

Website: umcne.org



On Facebook at

facebook.com/umcne



Back to School Bash is Saturday, July 6.

Family Life Center

Time: 5:00 PM– 7:00 PM


Community school children
and families are invited to join us to
receive school supplies for the coming year
and enjoy snacks and games.

Everyone is Welcome

All St. Paul Members are invited
to come and participate as well.

July 2024

St. Paul UMC * 600 Main Street S. * New Ellenton, SC 29809

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6 PM-Informative Meeting- FLC	3	4 Independence Day 	5	6 5 PM-7 PM Back to School Bash-FLC
7 9:30 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Worship/ Commissioning of Salkehatchie Team	8 Ryan Toole (B)	9	10	11	12 Nicole Ferron (B) Charlene Sundstrom (B)	13 Salkehatchie Summer Service	
14 9:30 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Worship/ Music Sunday	15 Crystal Broughton (B)	16	17	18 Kathy & Philip Moore (A)	19	20	
Salkehatchie Summer Service							
21 9:30 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Worship 12 PM-Informative Meeting-FLC 4 PM-Finance Meeting	22 Don Matera (B)	23	24 Brooklyn Summer (B) Storm Summer (B)	25	26 8:30 AM-ACTS Food Distribution Casey Owens (B)	27	
28 9:30 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Worship/ Salkehatchie Testimony Sunday- 3 PM-Administrative Council Meeting-FLC	29 Robert Thompson (B)	30	31				